



DECEMBER 2013 NEWSPAPER



¡SE PERIÓDICO DE NEGRO Y ROSADO AHORA DISPONIBLE EN ESPAÑOL! / BLACK AND PINK NEWSPAPER NOW AVAILABLE IN SPANISH!

La policia, los tribunales, y el sistema de prisiones en los Estados Unidos acosa a gente de color, particularmente a gente negra, latin@, arabe, o indígena. Casi 1 en 3 prisioneros hablan español como lengua materna. Queremos que nuestro periódico sea lo más disponible posible cualquiera persona quien quiera leerlo. Somos una familia más fuerte cuando más gente nos pueden entender. **Por favor, avisen a todos sus amigos lesbiana, gay, bisexual, transgenero, o kuir/queer quienes quisieran recibir un periódico en español que escriban a:**

Black and Pink - Spanish Newspaper
614 Columbia Rd.
Dorchester, MA 02125

The US police, court, and prison system targets people of color, particularly Black, Latin@, Arab, and Indigenous/American Indian people. Nearly 1 in 3 prisoners' first language is Spanish. We want our newspaper to be as available as possible to everyone who wants to read it. We are a stronger family when more people can understand us. **Please tell all your Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and/or Queer friends who would like a newspaper in Spanish to write to:**

Black and Pink - Spanish Newspaper
614 Columbia Rd.
Dorchester, MA 02125

COMING OUT, BEING STRONG, AND REFUSING TO CONFORM TO THE SOCIAL NORMS OF PRISON CULTURE

It seems to me that we live in a society in which science, religion, and government have consistently conspired to keep many exceptional people, like those within the incarcerated lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender prison community, on the bench. Yet for me, being left out, cast out, and viewed as different because of my beliefs, sexual desires, and chosen lifestyles, has always been a luxury to some degree, because it has allowed me to evade the rules governing what we now know to be social conformity.

Many inmates throughout the correctional system of prisons seek acceptance from their peers, or the crowd of the prison room from which they are housed in. You know the inmates who are known by everyone on the yard, either because they're messy, prison rich, outwardly social, in the gang and drug scene, or spend their time fighting and getting everyone to believe they're hard, as if to suggest that violence is the key to real intelligence. Rather, I embrace the realities of my difference, because they help me to discover the courage to repudiate self-contempt, and recognize their views of me as a precious gift of freedom from arbitrary norms. In fact, at the very moment we question the validity of the rules or the reason they have chosen to view us as outsiders, the victim- meaning you or I or the LGBT community- are no longer victim. Truth is, by their own mythology of reason, they have become the victim- the victim of social conformity, from which we can be free of.

Black and Pink
614 Columbia Rd
Dorchester, MA 02125

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I hope for all of you to make the gradual transition from Outsider to Individualist. I will continue to hope for all who struggle with who they truly are to stop fearing the abusive words meant to describe the LBGT identity, or even what I say for that matter, and start to question what the words mean about those who shout them. The words, ideas, and thoughts that were designed to intimidate me become instead a challenge to resist humiliation by understanding why some people feel such satisfaction and empowerment when they succeed in humiliating others. Others in, as well as out of prison, take up differences with the LGBT community mostly in part because of what they have been falsely taught by others, or the stories they ave been told about the darkness that terrifies those who cannot see in the dark. If this is so, then we as a community must understand that they are passing judgment against us not because of what they themselves believe, but rather what they have been forced and told to believe. This on its surface then suggests that they are looking in the mirror, though the eyes of someone else's beliefs, because they themselves have proven to be blind, and so they are frightened by what they thought they saw lurking somewhere in the unknown regions that lie beyond the great wall of their narrow lives.

I for one will tell you there is no need to fear or care what people who disagree think, they are unimportant, because if they don't care about your happiness, why should you care about their opinion. You deserve to be you and have the right to feel comfortable and safe being your true self. Trust me, you are not alone, despite what the conformist crowd may suggest and want you to believe. You are not sick or any different than the rest of us, you're not going to die or go to hell because you enjoy being with someone of your same gender. You're not crazy. You are not alone. I for one am rooting for you every step of the way. So even when it seems like the darkness surrounds you and there's no one there to turn on the lights or hold you and tell you it's OK to feel what it is you feel, know that I am always here for you.

A final note, while some of you may not believe so, I want you to know that true love and loyalty really does exist amongst incarcerated LGBT peers- there are people like myself who truly want the best for you and all who are a part of the prison LBGT community. I don't just say this as an LGBT prisoner, I say this because it's true, because I am a person who stands firmly on the principles of communication, trust, love, loyalty, truth and faithfulness, since they are the keys that hold our foundation together.

Dakota, Virginia

DECEMBER 1, 2013 WORLD AIDS DAY A REMINDER OF THINGS THAT USED TO MATTER

By Ian Awesome
It's World AIDS Day.

It's scheduled at a weird time of year, isn't it? Right in between Thanksgiving and Christmas, this day dedicated to one of the deadliest plagues to beset modern humanity is often overlooked. There's shopping to accomplish! Who is really going to take a break to talk about HIV?

It's sort of a problem cropping up in recent discourse when dealing with the AIDS epidemic. The majority of visible American media is satiated on the idea that HIV is no longer deadly, a circumstance exacerbated by the white supremacist and classist notion that HIV-treatment options are available to all, an idea repudiated by the realities of racism and poverty. With all this static and all this dissonance about the nature of HIV and its consequences, it's easy to see why an ongoing scourge, which slowly murders people globally, can fall out of the public eye.

It is no longer cool nor widely acceptable to talk about HIV and AIDS in the terms that they deserve nor with the sense of urgency that the epidemic requires. Poverty-stricken indigenous South Africans are wasting away in the suburbs of Cape Town, while the advent of PrEP has convinced white middle class gay men in the United States that HIV is No Longer A Big Deal. The priorities are clear: as long as those most privileged among us (like myself) can survive, the disease is manageable.

It. Isn't. If you think it is, please talk about it with someone newly infected living in Namibia, in Chad, in Alabama... Or on the street you live, sleeping behind your dumpster.

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Statement of Purpose
Black & Pink is an open family of LGBTQ prisoners and “free world” allies who support each other. Our work toward the abolition of the prison industrial complex is rooted in the experience of currently and formerly incarcerated people. We are outraged by the specific violence of the prison industrial complex against LGBTQ people, and respond through advocacy, education, direct service, and organizing.

About this Newspaper
Since 2007, Black & Pink free world volunteers have pulled together a monthly newspaper primarily composed of material written by our family’s incarcerated members. In response to letters we receive, more prisoners receive the newspaper each issue!

This month, the newspaper is being sent to: **3,899** prisoners!

Disclaimer:
Please note that the ideas and opinions expressed in the Black & Pink Newspaper are solely those of the authors and artists and do not necessarily reflect the views of Black & Pink. Black & Pink makes no representations as to the accuracy of any statements made in the Newspaper, including but not limited to legal and medical information. Authors and artists bear sole responsibility for their work. Everything published in the Newspaper is also on the internet—it can be seen by anyone with a computer. By sending a letter to “Newspaper Submissions,” you are agreeing to have your piece in the Newspaper and on the internet. For this reason, we only publish First Names and State Location to respect people’s privacy.

Call for Submissions to New Erotica Zine!

Seeking erotic short stories and poems by Black & Pink incarcerated and free-world family members for a new ‘zine. Please send submissions to our Black & Pink - Gabrielle. This is a voluntary project, and no money will be offered for submissions, but you might get the chance to share your spicy story with many others! To subscribe to receive erotica, write to our new address, Black & Pink - Erotica.

A MESSAGE FROM JASON

Dear Friends,
I hope this note finds you as well as possible. I am not sure I have mentioned in the past, but December is my favorite month. I have a love of Christmas to an embarrassing degree. I start listening to Christmas music on November 1st, my poor boyfriend suffers through it generously. Starting in December is when I can begin thinking about all of my favorite parts of Christmas beyond Mariah Carey’s “All I Want for Christmas is You.” As this newspaper goes out we will be in the very beginning days of Advent, the four Sundays before Christmas. One of the best moments in the Bible is read during this season. When Mary goes to visit her cousin she talks about what is coming with Jesus’ birth. She says, “God has shown strength with God’s arm; God has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.”

As Mary said these things she was talking about what Jesus was going to fulfill through his ministry. Can you imagine this today? Can you imagine the powerful prison wardens being brought down from their thrones of violent power? Can you imagine prisoners being lifted up and those who are hungry for justice getting what they need? Can you imagine those with money and power giving up their riches to be shared? I might get teased for my love of this holiday, but I encourage you to imagine what Christmas can mean when we think about it differently. Imagine a baby being born under an occupying government whose mother tells stories about him overthrowing the violent system they are stuck under. That is the Christmas I love.

Along with the celebration of Christmas, December is a time we pause to recognize World AIDS Day. Black and Pink has been increasing our work with LGBTQ prisoners living with HIV/AIDS. This year we began a partnership with a Boston-area AIDS Service Organization, the Boston Living Center. Through this partnership we have been supporting free world people living with HIV/AIDS to build pen pal friendship with incarcerated people living with HIV/AIDS. You may have also noticed that we have been sharing more articles and information about living with HIV in prison and about how to decrease transmission while incarcerated. While HIV/AIDS affects all people, it causes particular harm to communities of color, especially Black and Latino men who have sex with men. The US prison system also targets this same community. It becomes our responsibility, as Black and Pink, to include the fight against HIV/AIDS as part of our efforts. Along with a request for your thoughts on expanding our reach of the Spanish translation of the paper, you will see later in this issue a request for your feedback on including prisoners living with HIV/AIDS in our family regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. I look forward to reading what you all think.

Black and Pink has quite a few exciting things going on right now. Nearly 300 of you have asked for copies of Hot Pink, our erotica ‘zine, and that should be showing up to you right before or after you get this newspaper. We had a fundraiser with nearly 100 people and raised \$488 to help send Hot Pink to everyone who wants it. Coming up early in 2014 you will see the survey in two months of the newspaper, many thanks to everyone who sent questions for us to include. If you still have things you want to see in this survey, please let us know. We are also working with a Director from MTV who is looking to do a documentary on gay prisoners. As this develops and there are opportunities for involvement, I will be sure to let you know. Black and Pink is also beginning to receive some more significant funding, as we mentioned in the last newspaper. Your thank you cards to donors are wonderful. The more, the better. We will be sure to share our draft budget with you in the January newspaper for your reflections.

In this last month of 2013 we keep our fight going, knowing that once there were no prisons, that day will come again.

In loving struggle,
Jason

LOVE OURSELVES, LOVE OUR BODIES JUST AS WE ARE SUBMISSIONS CALL

BodyImage4Justice is pleased to announce a new campaign to promote discussion of body image and its connection to health and well-being in our community. The Love Ourselves, Love Our Bodies Just As We Are Campaign features our stories in our own words about body image. This campaign focuses on the experiences of transgender people, but includes stories from people throughout the LGBTQ community because we see body image as a common thread that connects people across identities.

We invite you to contribute your own thoughts and experiences regarding body image to be included in the campaign, along with a photograph and a brief biographical statement. Contributions can be up to 1000 words long, and may be edited for length and grammar before publishing. Filmmakers and vloggers are welcome to submit short videos (5 minutes or less) and a biographical statement. You can submit your story or video to BI4J via e-mail at embodyingjustice@gmail.com Please spread the word to others who may be interested in contributing their stories as well—we want to include as many diverse voices as possible in this campaign.

Mail submissions to:

BodyImage4Justice
P.O. Box 120789
Boston MA 02112

A REMINDER OF THINGS THAT USED TO MATTER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

While you gear up for the holidays, please understand that there are some that will never see the holidays again. Please understand that there are those of us who lost an entire generation of elders to this disease, leaving us bereft of wisdom and historical perspective. Keep in mind that there are those among us who miss loved ones who died too soon, too young, too... dead.

Why do we not talk about this anymore? American mainstream gay culture is busily divesting itself of its urgency in talking about HIV, while American mainstream straight culture is divesting itself of any interest in the topic whatsoever. As funds for treatment and research slowly but steadily dry up, things are beginning to look bleak for those not advantaged enough to access prevention and treatment. What do we do? What do we do while people are dying and no-one cares enough to do something about it?

The next step forward, whatever the oligarchic ruling class may tell you, is clear to anyone with a sense of logic (or compassion). The de-stigmatization of HIV is paramount to education. Education about HIV is a necessity to prevention. Prevention is necessary to saving lives.

I hope for a cure someday during my lifetime; with avid desire I wait until I’m able to stop taking these pills, these little pills that rule my little world. Until then, I hope to stay alive, and I hope that others live through this, and I know that some of the people infected don’t have a chance in hell, and I’m really fucking sad about that. Capitalism and the state and AIDS have ensured their demise. I hope they pass in comfort.

I know they won’t.

As long as people are more obsessed over the day after Thanksgiving than December first, AIDS will exist and will continue to kill people. Thousands of them, globally. As long as people care for profit margins and gift wrapping and the American status quo, people will die victims of narcissistic negligence at the hands of the most wealthy society in human history.

Us.

Happy World AIDS Day.

Ian Awesome is a genderqueer anticapitalist blogger based in Seattle, Washington. You can follow them at their blog oneangryqueer.blogspot.com, or [facebook.com/pages/OneAngryQueer](https://www.facebook.com/pages/OneAngryQueer) and Twitter @OneAngryQueer.

Dear Black & Pink Family,

Re: Letter in June/July newspaper, by my brother in North Tex.

First, I admire you for fighting back against the rape attempt.

Second, keep on trying to get safekeeping. Don’t stop at the first try—do it every day ‘till they get tired of hearing from you. It took me three tries to get safekeeping and you have a right to be safe from any kind of abuse.

Next, as a Gay man and Father, if a dad would just listen, as I did when my son came out to me at age 14. He was only worried about 2 things: 1) was I mad at him and 2) did I still love him. I pulled him into a big hug and told him no matter what, you are my son and I will always love you. More dads need to do that instead of turning away.

As always,
Love, Hugs, and Respect,
Tommy, Texas

Dear Black & Pink,

Within the past several months I’ve seen the prison I’m at be the most racist and hateful prison in the state of Maryland. I’ve also noticed that people have been helping each other with legal and prisoner’s rights information printed in Black & Pink, including the appropriate Rules, Regulations, Laws, and Court Case Citations, etc, for a few issues. If it’s possible, I have a two-part question I would love to hear about from those who are knowledgeable within the law and institutional litigation issues.

1.I’ve heard that Correctional Officers are not supposed to use those large canisters of Mace (Foggers, or canisters that looks like a small household or car fire extinguisher) indoors on housing units, wings, pods, etc.

2.I’ve also heard Correctional Officers are not supposed to use such chemicals like “tear gas” or concussion grenades, indoors on housing units, wings, pods, etc., especially if there’s not a “major disturbance,” like a fight involving a weapon or an assault on a Officer or a riot.

I am in the process of filing a suit against the Warden of this institution for allowing his employees to use these chemicals in a closed environment, putting others at risk of possible death, especially those who already have an illness or respiratory problems.

So, please, if you can, share any information you may have about these issues.

Sincerely,
Focus, Maryland

Hi Guys!

People have to know what injustice goes on in our judicial system & government. Everybody just wished to turn a blind eye to everything that is wrong, and just act like there can be nothing done for it. Well that’s bullsh--! We can’t just sit around while politicians make all our decisions for us like we are little children. Must we constantly “tsk, tsk” at the TV as we watch “our leader” pass bills and laws that obviously deduct from and take away our freedom? We call ourselves “the land of the free;” I’m sorry but I can’t help but laugh at that. We sit at home and wonder why the world is so messed up, but if it’s so messed up, why are we not taking to the streets to help the movement? Why are we not as citizens helping to lift each other up? Why are we not making our voices be heard and screaming our outrage to the world??

Love ya,
Penny, California

Black & Pink,

Hey Family, I pray that all is well. Here, well I’m dealin’ with these contradictions, just like everyone else in this system. I’m here in Texas....West Texas that is, and for all those that haven’t experienced th’ typical West Texas mentality, it’s like travelin’ back in time about 50 years, no joke.

I’d just like to share a few words of encouragement to th’ Black & Pink family, because encouragement is what I’ve received for the past 2 years in the Newspaper. Like most that have ever come in contact with a Penal Institution, I’ve had my share of injustices. I just acknowledged my 40th birthday. I’ve been locked up since I was 19. Shortly after my birthday, August 28th, I received my 8th set-off. My eligibility for parole started at 7 ½ years. Since then I have gotten an eighteen month set-off, 5 consecutive two years set-offs, then 2 one year set-offs. But what feeds my evident frustration is that one of the two reasons given for my denial was that I hadn’t done enough time. On a 30 year sentence where I’m eligible for release at 7 ½ years, how much time will be enough? My analysis of this situation is too complicated to express right now, but if 20 years ain’t enough for them, then 21 won’t be either.

Okay, words of encouragement... George Jackson wrote during his time of incarceration, and I’m paraphrasing, “Since we have no control over how long we live, then we must take control of how we live.” **FAMILY, FIND YOUR SIGNIFICANCE. FIND YOUR REASONS FOR EXISTIN’, THEN CULTIVATE TH’ COURAGE TO LIVE.** It begins with accepting who you are. Which means refusing to be anyone else...you are who you are, and love being you. Kobe Bryant encouraged our brotha Jason Collins- Be you, don’t allow the misconceptions of others to suffocate you from being who you are.

Obstacles have come and criticisms weren’t far behind. But th’ challenges are only that....challenges. They don’t define who you are. They should only assist Us with hoisting Us into a more refined Us- unafraid, undeterred, firm,

confident, and proud. And reaching to raise the bar for those that come after Us and dismissing th’ fabrications and lies that have haunted Us for way too long.

Let’s begin. Be Encouraged!
Your Brotha, Lover, & Friend,
Until th’ end of time,
Shaq, Texas

Dear Black & Pink Family,

First, I hope this find all of my brothers and sisters, inside and out, in the best of health and spirits!

On August 21, 2013, I was doing research on standards of torture under international law. I was doing this research as part of my challenge to my illegal, perpetual imprisonment due to the war on terror. Upon leaving the law library, I was groped/sexually assaulted by a senior C/O under the guise of a “pat search.”

After the incident (and collecting my wits), I made a written complaint to the unit caseworker. Since then, I’ve had my cell searched, been written up and sanctioned, and have received special attention from C/O’s in the form of attempts at intimidation, verbal abuse, and harassment, concerning my sexual identity and persuasion.

In the wake of this incident, however, something else has also occurred; an unexpected level of support from comrades and friends both known and unknown prior to this event. It is my hope that this incident will galvanize people here and raise their awareness of the need for unification. I’m not the only prisoner (TG or other) to be sexually assaulted by guards at this prison, it is only one of the many abuses we are routinely exposed to...one of the many symptoms of a degenerate system that thrives on violence and exploitation.

It is my hope that in time our solidarity will prevent abuses, rather than just tend to the damage caused by them.

Peace and love to all.
In Struggle and Solidarity,
O, Nevada

Dear Black & Pink Family,

I want to say that I gave in to life’s hate and bullying of our community. I tried to take my life and really nearly succeeded after overdosing on 4 different medications, totaling over 120 pills. I did slip into a coma, my family were notified I wasn’t expected to live or if I did, it’d be in a “vegetable” state. After 5 days, I awoke. This occurred July 31, and I may have had some permanent brain injury, neck ligament damage, and kidney damage. Time will tell. There’s no doubt staff saved my life. Before and as I was popping the pills, I prayed to my Higher Power that if I’m still to serve a purpose on Earth, to bring me back.

I’m telling this for 3 reasons. 1. To tell my B&P Family about the weakness I felt and how I gave into the bullying and harassing like so many of our family do, especially younger members. 2. So that my friends know what occurred and that I’m okay. 3. Because the DOC finally realized a supermax facility was not for me. They are expediting a transfer to a facility and unit where I can undergo psychiatric and emotional treatment. I’ve been telling them this for some time now. I encourage all of my brothers and sisters incarcerated who may experience harassment, assaults, bullying, and more to work with your psych department, they helped me, maybe they can help you.

And pray, for prayers are answered. I’m living proof.

Sincerely,
Piper, Pennsylvania

Dear Black & Pink,

My name is Brett, I am 22 years old and proud to be gay. I am currently incarcerated in IDOC (Illinois). I am in Seg, awaiting transfer for falling in love with the man of my dreams. My husband is Teddy from Illinois—I’ve read his words in the Newspaper, it made me cry. I’m writing to say, there is no amount of space that they can put between us to squash our love for each other. He is maxing out his sentence in October (2013), and after that, they can’t stop us from corresponding. He will no longer be in the custody of the state and free of the Prison-Industrial Complex (PIC). As for us staying in touch, two sayings will have to prove true: “Where there’s a will, there’s a way” and “Love will find a way.” Nothing will extinguish our love for each other. They can put a thousand miles between us and our love will not falter. The PIC will not oppress us. When I get out, and we’re together again, we will fulfill our dream and be together as a couple. The thought of that seemed to sicken the staff here. We will happily live our lives after this nightmare. These people, or the PIC, will not stop me from being with the man that makes me happy, that has given me the gift of a family, that has pulled me out of a deep depression that I’ve been in for the past 5 years. This is my big “screw you” to the Prison-Industrial Complex and the rest of the IDOC staff. They can try to take away my freedom, but they will NEVER take away who and what I am! Or my freedom to love who I want! I’m sick of being pushed around, I’m taking my stand. I love you T.F.D., forever and always.

Stand up for what you believe in!
Brett, Illinois

LETTERS TO OUR FAMILY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

My name is Kidd, I am 30 years old and I am currently doing time in a California state prison. I’ve been down eleven years and I go home in three months. I have been gay since the age of seven, I didn’t act on it until I turned fourteen. I had a four year relationship with a 35 year old guy who was a store manager. I woke up everyday at 5am to meet him at the store, we had sex before the place opened. I did get paid for it and took whatever I wanted from the store. I took care of my family with the food I got, and I bought clothes, shoes, CD’s, etc with the money he gave me. I had girlfriends, but I liked men. I was too afraid to act on it openly or tell anybody. We kept our sexual relationship quiet and met five days a week. I was very comfortable being with him, and he taught me things, and was always gentle. He was the first man I had been with until I turned 23, when I had a 6 ½ year relationship in prison. I finally decided to tell my family that I was gay- I was very nervous about telling them about my lifestyle. I called and the first thing I said to my mom was, “I have a boyfriend,” then, “I’m gay.” I told them I have always felt this way, and to my surprise they both had the same response, “We love you and always accept you no matter what.” I was much happier after I talked to my family, and now I’m comfortable telling people I’m gay. I get treated with respect, I give it first, and never cross lines that shouldn’t be crossed. I also stand up for what’s right, I don’t like people making others uncomfortable, just because of their lifestyle or how different they are.

Sincerely,
Kidd, California

Hello family and friends,
I am a 32 year old feminine gay boy and this is my Coming Out Story.
Well, I should start when I was 5 years old. My adopted father had sexually abused me and left me with a life long scar. Or so it seemed at first. I was shy of grown adults for a long time and didn’t trust any of them to be alone in my room or my personal space all the way up ‘til I was 15 yrs old. I then became a run away from home and was in all types of trouble ‘til I was 17 years old.

I was then given papers saying I was my own adult. I then moved around Louisiana and stayed with a few friends for a while. Little did I know then that I was Gay or Bisexual, but I was going to find out soon enough. I moved in with an old school queen in Alexandria, LA, and was shown just what I already knew and was doing in my mind. But I was shown how to actually release the inner female and how everything went in Our World.

I stayed there for a few months, then had my first and own free will in any type of homosexual relationship. The male I met was Jason, and he was from Arizona. He was passing through and was at a club where I go all the time. It took me one look at him and I totally forgot to breath and then I felt a feeling I had only felt once before, but I never told anyone, it was my secret and now it was about to come to the light. Later, I talked to Jason at the club and asked him if he wanted to get to know each other better and he said “Yeah.” Since then I’d been with him from the age of 17; he was 15 and fine.

Well, he and I fell in love and I told my real Mom that I found a lover that had me all the way, no one else has ever had. Yeah, I’d been with a girl before and I really just didn’t feel it with her, even though I had really tried, but it just wasn’t what I wanted at all. After I returned back to my adopted family, I tried to tell them but they didn’t want to hear me nor respect what I was saying. So I hid it when I was around them, but everyone else knew it.

After I got locked up, I finally had their full attention and they finally listened to me. I told them, “Mom, Dad, I have something I want to tell you all; I am gay. I like boys. In fact, I like being the girl in all of my relationships I had, other than the three females I had been with that gave you all your grandchildren.... Sorry, I hope that you all will still love me and want to claim me, but I am what I am. And also, I’m not mad at you Dad for what you did.

And no I don’t blame you for it.” But the truth was I did. I hated him and what he done to me. But the truth was I finally told everyone I am gay.

Thank you for your time and attention, I hope that someone out there will gain strength to come on out. Be proud of who and what you are, no matter what. Just be yourself. Even though sometimes I am hated for being a fem gay male, I’m still loved, especially by myself :)

Sincerely, With Love,
Chelsea, Texas

Art By: Santos V



TRANS FOLKS DOWN FOR THE FIGHT

SEEKING SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT

My name is Sherri, I’m 46 years old. I became the first MtF transgender to be reclassified as a female prisoner while serving time in a prison for men at a certain institution in California. This historical transfer from a men’s prison, to an institution for women took place on March 7, 2008. It has been approximately 5½ since then, and my daily struggle with prison officials who cannot look beyond my appearance or the sound of my voice has ostracized me to the point of nearly ending my life.

I’m now housed in a Psychiatric program in a women’s prison, where I am trying to find the strength to keep pushing forward. As I sit here writing my new found Black & Pink Family, I know that the discrimination suffered by the LGBTQ community within the California Prison System must not go unchallenged. However, I am alone and only but one voice. Is it my hope that these words will be published and ignite a combined force for change, becoming a voice that is so powerful that our cry for equality simply can no longer be ignored.

We have a right to live our life, to be who we are without fear of being judged- or worse- harassed to literally no end. Absolutely no one had the right to project their opinions, or religious beliefs, unto us.

For all too long now, I’ve watched the world move forward and become more liberal, while the CDCR remains stagnant by its narrow-mindedness. Personally, I believe that it is about time for a really big rude awakening. Prison officials need to get it through their bureaucratic backsides that the days of the big brush-off are coming to an end. **EVEN AFTER ALL OF THE HELL THAT I’VE BEEN FORCED TO ENDURE, IT IS STILL VERY IMPORTANT TO ME TO CARE AND DO MY PART TO TRY AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS WORLD. NO MATTER HOW FAR I GET KNOCKED DOWN, I ALWAYS MANAGE TO BRUSH MYSELF OFF AND GET BACK UP.**

At this point, I’m pretty much committed for the long haul. I’ve been through entirely too much (including nearly losing my life) to throw in the towel now. I’ve been known to move mountains, but this particular fight is much bigger than me.

Sherri, California

TIME FOR THANKS: BY CHELSEA MANNING

I’m usually hesitant to celebrate Thanksgiving Day. After all, the Puritans of the Massachusetts Bay Colony systematically terrorized and slaughtered the very same Pequot tribe that assisted the first English refugees to arrive at Plymouth Rock. So, perhaps ironically, I’m thankful that I know that, and I’m also thankful that there are people who seek out, and usually find, such truths. I’m thankful for people who, even surrounded by millions of Americans eating turkey during regularly scheduled commercial breaks in the Green Bay and Detroit football game; who, despite having been taught, often as early as five and six years old, that the “helpful natives” selflessly assisted the “poor helpless Pilgrims” and lived happily ever after, dare to ask probing, even dangerous, questions.

Such people are often nameless and humble, yet no less courageous. Whether carpenters or welders; retail clerks or bank managers; artists or lawyers, they dare to ask tough questions, and seek out the truth, even when the answers they find might not be easy to live with.

I’m also grateful for having social and human justice pioneers who lead through action, and by example, as opposed to directing or commanding other people to take action. Often, the achievements of such people transcend political, cultural, and generational boundaries. Unfortunately, such remarkable people often risk their reputations, their livelihood, and, all too often, even their lives.

For instance, the man commonly known as Malcolm X began to openly embrace the idea, after an awakening during his travels to the Middle East and Africa, of an international and unifying effort to achieve equality, and was murdered after a tough, yearlong defection from the Nation of Islam. Martin Luther King Jr., after choosing to embrace the struggles of striking sanitation workers in Memphis over lobbying in Washington, D.C., was murdered by an escaped convict seeking fame and respect from white Southerners. Harvey Milk, the first openly gay politician in the U.S., was murdered by a jealous former colleague. These are only examples; I wouldn’t dare to make a claim that they represent an exhaustive list of remarkable pioneers of social justice and equality—certainly many if not the vast majority are unsung and, sadly, forgotten.

So, this year, and every year, I’m thankful for such people, and I’m thankful that one day—perhaps not tomorrow—because of the accomplishments of such truth-seekers and human rights pioneers, we can live together on this tiny “pale blue dot” of a planet and stop looking inward, at each other, but rather outward, into the space beyond this planet and the future of all of humanity.

Chelsea Manning is serving a 35-year prison sentence at Fort Leavenworth for leaking hundreds of thousands of classified documents to the anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks.

Hello,

My name is Rob and I’m serving a life sentence here in Oregon. I am currently being housed in the mental health facility here after several failed escape attempts and an attempt at suicide. Having failed in those endeavors, I’ve set off on another one. Now that I’m locked down 22 hours a day I’ve started studying the rules, regulations, and laws pertaining to inmate rights, and I’ve begun filing grievances wherever I see that they’re being violated by prison officials. Once these grievances are finalized I intend to pursue them in the courts via lawsuits seeking damages when appropriate and I will continue this until I see the prison change course and start following its own rules, regulations, and laws, or until they kill me!

I would like you all to know that you have certain rights that do not end at the prison gate no matter what they might try to tell you, and that you can force change down the throats of the prison officials whether they like it or not! First though you need to know what your rights are. Almost every prison Law Library has a copy of *The Prisoners’ Self Help Litigation Manual* by Dan Manville and John Boston, and/or a copy of *Protecting Your Health & Safety: A Litigation Guide for Inmates*, by the Southern Poverty Law Center. These books were written for prisoners in easy to understand language and are step-by-step manuals for dealing with these issues. In my opinion, they are invaluable to all inmates, as they lay out your rights, how to sue for them, and what the courts have already decided in similar cases.

Here is a classic example of what I’m saying: I read in the September 2013 issue of the B&P Newspaper about an inmate named Prince in Arizona who was denied P.C. (Protective Custody) status several times. I would get written documentation from the prison denying you P.C. status and why, in their own words. Once you have this and you suffer so much as a black eye from an inmate, you can then sue for monetary damages both physical and psychological, and that adds up to \$. The federal law is clear that ALL inmates have a right to be protected from other inmates. The key is knowing these rights, recognizing when they are violated, and then being willing to stand up and fight for them to the end.

This involves a certain amount of studying on your part and it is not always easy, but it’s not impossible. Some civil rights violations that involve groups of inmates such as failure to provide adequate medical services, failure to provide adequate protection to the inmate population, or denial of adequate mental health services can be dealt with by writing to and filing complaints with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Civil Rights Division. Though the DOJ normally represents prisons, the Civil Rights Division does in fact investigate and holds officials responsible for civil rights violations, at least at this period in time anyway. So now is the time to try to get things changed. If you want to avoid the work of lengthy lawsuits yourself, you can also file these complaints with the ACLU, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the Center for Constitutional Rights. These organizations file class action lawsuits on behalf of prisoners across the U.S. when prisons are wantonly violating prisoners’ civil rights.

So you do not have to be a jailhouse lawyer, nor overly educated; you just cannot be intimidated by the process. Whatever you do, please don’t complain that your prison’s canteen only sells creamy peanut butter and not chunky. Let’s try to reserve everyone’s resources and time for the serious violations.

The pen is mightier than the sword, my friends, but neither is effective if you won’t pick them up! **IF YOU WOULD STAND UP AND FIGHT WITH ME, MAYBE WE CAN START TO CHANGE THIS SYSTEM FROM WITHIN.** Nobody is going to give you justice for free; we are going to have to fight for it. Start by asking your Law Library for the books I mentioned. If they don’t have them, ask if they can get them, or can you have someone get them for you, maybe a Jailhouse Lawyer there will have a copy they will lend you? I’ve included the address for organizations and resources below. It’s a great place to start and who knows, if your situation is bad enough, you may be entitled to large monetary damages and so if nothing else, let the money motivate you. Whatever your motivation, fight!

Rob, Oregon

Information & Resources:

- U.S. Department of Justice (Civil Rights Division): 950 Pennsylvania Ave N.W., Washington DC, 20530
- Southern Poverty Law Center: 400 Washington Ave, Montgomery, AL, 36104.
- Protecting Your Health & Safety: A Litigation Guide for Inmates, by the Southern Poverty Law Center, a 325-page manual, is available from Prison Legal News for \$16 (\$10 + \$6 shipping/handling). Mail your request and check or money order payable to “Prison Legal News” to: Prison Legal News, PO Box 2420, West Brattleboro, VT 05303
- Center for Constitutional Rights: “CCR receives hundreds of inquiries each week and can no longer accept public requests for legal assistance.” Prisoners can order a free copy of “The Jailhouse Lawyer’s Handbook:
- How to Bring a Federal Lawsuit to Challenge Violations of Your Rights in Prison” by writing to: Jailhouse Lawyers Handbook, c/o The Center for Constitutional Rights, 666 Broadway, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10012
- ACLU National Prison Project: 915 15th St, N.W. 7th Floor, Washington, DC, 20005. Requests for legal assistance are handled by your local state ACLU affiliates.

Dear Family Folk,

I am a gay male in my 60’s who has been incarcerated the last 4 years in the state that has “imprisonment” as its fifth largest industry: Colorado (listed so on the Forbes report). Also, I am in a facility that is owned by the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), a private, for profit facility. Basically, I am one of the cattle in the feed lot.

Black & Pink is a great publication. It is encouraging to know that the LGBTQ community is creating organizations that are working to change America’s prison culture, fighting back against discrimination and oppression, and giving a forum to the words of us minority individuals.

I want to share the info for a “reform” organization in Colorado, as there are some in most states, working to change the policy of mass incarceration: Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition (CCJRC), 1212 Mariposa #6, Denver, CO 80204, 303-825-0122

I encourage B&P readers to contact a similar organization in your state, and tell your friends and family members about the organizations, and try to get them active in working for change.

Only through unified, mass actions, will an real change be possible. Just sitting around watching TV all day will do nothing. People need to be informed that “change groups” exist. Then they must be encouraged to pick up the phone, call, and ask, “What can I do to help?”

There are lots of books by competent activist authors that tell about “the system”and what can be done to change it. Only if people understand the “monster,” what it is, how it got its start, how it works, can they fight it and stop it. Here are some of my favorites:

- Anything by Jesse Ventura, especially *Don’t Start the Revolution Without Me* and *Democrips and Rebloodlicans: No More Gangs in Congress*
Actual Innocence by Scheck, Neufeld, & Dwyer
The Prison Industrial Complex & The Global Economy by Linda Evans
The Gates of Injustice by A. Elsner
Three Felonies a Day by Harvey Silvergate
The Innocent Man by John Grisham
The Prison Industrial Complex by Angela Davis
Weapons of Mass Instruction by John Taylor Gatto
Texas Tough: The Rise of America’s Prison Empire by R. Perkinson
The Watchers: The Rise of America’s Surveillance State by Shane Harris
Idiot America: How Stupidity Became a Virtue in the Land of the Free by C.P. Pierce

Change can only come through education and organization. Get going, educate yourself, make The System miserable, fight back! We can make a difference.

Yours,
John, Colorado

DECEMBER 17TH: INTERNATIONAL DAY TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST SEX WORKERS

In the spirit of remembrance and healing, the Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP-USA) and SWOP chapters from around the United States wish to join sex worker allies and advocates from around the world in recognizing December 17, the International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers. As we approach this day, we seek to come together to remember those who we have lost this year, and renew our commitment in the on-going struggle for empowerment, visibility, and rights for all sex workers.

Violence against sex workers is an international concern which plays out on a daily basis, in all countries around the globe.

A study conducted by the New York City-based Sex Workers Project reported that 80% of participants had reported experiencing violence, including 27% at the hands of police.

In a report on violence against sex workers in India, 70% had reported abuse by police, and 80% had been arrested without evidence. During a meeting of sex workers and advocates from Namibia, Botswana, and South Africa, participants described routine police violence including sexual violence, beatings, rubber bullets, and spraying sex worker’s genitals with pepper-spray guns.

The International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers was originally developed by Dr. Annie Sprinkle and SWOP founder Robyn Few to shine a spotlight on the epidemic of violence against sex workers happening globally. SWOP-USA began commemorating the Day as a memorial and vigil for the victims of the Green River Killer in Seattle, Washington, who murdered at least 71 women, most of whom were sex workers from 1982 to 1998.

During the week of December 17th sex worker rights organizations around the world stage actions and vigils to raise awareness about violence that is commonly committed against sex workers. These events also often address issues relating to stigma and discrimination that allows violence against sex workers to occur with impunity. We seek to raise awareness about the barriers faced when attempting to report violence, and promote empowerment and change what has become an unacceptable status quo. <http://www.december17.org/>

TRANS FOLKS DOWN FOR THE FIGHT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

NEW FILM IN PRODUCTION: FREE CECE

CeCe McDonald, a trans woman of color is in the midst of a 41 month prison sentence for defending herself against a violent, racist and transphobic attack in Minnesota which resulted in the death of one of her attackers. Actress Laverne Cox is portraying an incarcerated trans woman in “Orange is the New Black.” Through a powerful in prison interview, and investigative filmmaking. This film confronts the issue of transphobia and the culture of violence surrounding trans women of color.

SYNOPSIS

Told from the voices of Laverne Cox and CeCe McDonald (exclusive interview shot in St. Cloud Correctional Facility) FREE CECE examines the culture of violence experienced by trans women of color. Laverne Cox, (“Orange is the New Black,” “TRANSform Me,” “I Wanna Work for Diddy”) uses her platform to unpack some of the myths around violence against trans women. The case of CeCe McDonald is very important to Laverne Cox, as she states: “But for the grace of God I could be CeCe McDonald. CeCe’s case represents a long list of instances of violence against transgender women who are disproportionately trans women of color.”...

FREE CECE explores the roles race, class and gender played in her case. McDonald’s claim of self defense was rejected by Hennepin County prosecutors. The documentary explores the implications of CeCe’s story as a survivor, housing trans women in male prisons, and the practice of keeping trans women in solitary confinement.

ARTISTIC STATEMENT

As someone who supervised production on a national LGBT public affairs television show for over five years, I have witnessed the power of the personal story to educate, and change hearts and minds on issues faced by LGBT people.

As Producer/Director of the documentary FREE CECE, this project is important to me. I began researching this story when I was the Series Producer of the public television show, IN THE LIFE. When IN THE LIFE ended, in December of 2012, this project stayed with me. It seemed in the months following the show closing there was a new headline of a bias crime against a trans women of color. It is my mission to produce a documentary that confronts transgender bias crime, and bring humanity to its victims.

The film will begin by introducing two main voices: CeCe McDonald and Laverne Cox. Through investigative journalistic techniques, filmed illustrations, and CeCe’s prison interview, we will examine the story of CeCe McDonald and the events on June 5th 2011. Why did CeCe chose to serve her sentence inside of a men’s prison facility? The prison interview will serve as a main storyline of the film. When CeCe is released in 2014, Laverne Cox will be there to follow up on her story. Through out the film other news stories involving bias crimes against trans women of color will be explored and reflected upon by Laverne Cox. I believe it will be important to show CeCe as a survivor, and document how she moves forward with her life after her release from prison.

This film will confront the culture of violence surrounding transphobia. There will be interviews with psychologists such as Dr. Karen Franklin who specializes in perpetrator motivations found in bias crimes, and the UCLA Project for the Psychological Study of Hate Violence and Pathological Bias. Expert interviews will be supported with filmed “illustrations” to enhance the information presented. -Jac Gares, Producer/Director, New York, NY 2013

POETRY FROM THE HEART

IF I’M GOING TO MAKE IT

If I’m going to make it
I got to stand strong
Holding my head
Up to the sky
Standing tall

If I’m going to make it
I can’t allow
People to get the best of me
I can’ allow
Those who hate me
To bring me down

If I’m going to make it
I got to stand
On God’s word
To get through
If I’m going to make it
I got to stand tall and strong
If I’m going to make it
Juicy, Pennsylvania

YOUR LOVE IS A MIRACLE

The faintest hint of a smile plays
Across the miles to reinforce a heart
in disarray;
Your love is a Magical Miracle

Reading words whispered in the dead of night
Flying cable of affection enable me
with the might
And courage to rediscover myself.

Exploring lines of my mind’s mental maze
To the ends of time to befriend a soul lost
for a million days;
You’ve shown me who I can be if I try...

And tonight I will love you,
Even if it means that I die
Blair, Texas

THE EMPIRE

My soul is set afire
behind this prison wire
where madmen conspire
for something more
drugs=money=war
& dead men never get up off the floor
to testify
the truth mixed with a lie
the government is the key supplier
keeping the “work” coming in
& the prisons packed full of black men
& the streets is full of blood and sin
& we are aggravated to the fullest extent
never repent
for revolutionary intent
‘cause I know that there is something better
than hood rats chasing cheddar
constantly watching my back
‘cause from 360 degrees can come an attack
from the Feds or from friends turned to rats
& in here the talk is about parole
but the price for your freedom is ya soul
but I just can’t let mine go
so I resist and take a fighters stance
& refuse to dance their lil-o-dance
and patiently wait for my chance
while in the meantime
I write about crooked plot lines
& chalky outlines
& try not to think of twin towers knocked out the sky
& americans sent to foreign countries to die
all for a lie
all for the glory of the Empire
Charlemagne, Texas

The day I gave you the key to my heart,
I had never thought that we’d be torn apart.
One minute we’re looking into each others eyes,
The next we’re being separated because our kind they despise.
They don’t understand the beauty of our love,
So they try to stop it when push comes to shove
They tore out our hearts and stomped them in the ground,
Unbeknownst to them, the hearts were fake, enough to go around.
Because our real hearts belong to each other,
We locked them away tight, hidden from Big Brother.
Brett, Illinois

MONEY MACK MAINTAIN = CHANGE

Revolution in the streets is what they screaming
‘cause our government politicians ain’t nothing but crooked demons
plotting on the dreams of the innocent
with no repentance
just a death cart drawn by a pale horse
and the hour is getting late
and the majority are still blind to their fate
but here we stand with pitchforks in our right hand
me and mine— “we the willing” to take a stand
so they lock us up in cages and call us criminals
when really we are “Disciple soldiers” and generals
standing tall in the flames of change
propagating change through Money Mack and Maintain
& our pledge is to always ride and never budge
so let the streets we represent be our judge...
Charlemagne, Texas

FAMILY FEEDBACK & ARTWORK FORM

NOVEMBER NEWSPAPER FEEDBACK: QUESTIONS FOR PRISON SURVEY

There were some really great suggestions out there--thank you so much for your ideas!

SHARE 1 OR 2 QUESTIONS YOU WOULD TO SEE ON THE SURVEY

- 2 people asked if the staff or other prisoners know about your gender and/ or sexuality
- 4 people asked if you were treated differently for being LGBTQ
- 2 asked about the consequences of being LGBTQ in prison
- 2 asked if you’ve had to hide your identity for your own safety (and how that affected you)
- 2 asked if trans* prisoners were allowed to receive gender-affirming hormones, operations, clothing, etc.
- 2 people asked generally what hardships you face and if you feel safe
- 3 asked what you do to defend yourself
- 1 asked if you’ve been sexualiy assaulted, and if anything was done about it (for instance, did you receive counseling or support)
- 1 asked if you’d been in an abusive relationship
- 2 asked if you were able to have safe sex
- 1 asked if you’d contracted an STI
- 4 asked about your romantic relationships in prison
- 2 asked about your prison’s policy towards relationships and/or consensual sexual acts
- 1 asked if you’d found love
- 2 people asked if you have any way to support yourself after prison, or if you have anywhere to go
- 2 asked about how prison has changed/affected your psychology

HOW COULD A SURVEY LIKE THIS BE USEFUL TO YOU?

- 7 people said the answers to the survey could confirm that they’re not alone in their experience
- 7 said the answers could help people prepare and deal with similar situations
- 3 said it would be important for the public to have this data

Sample responses:

“To be able to see there are a lot more people like me who’ve had the same struggle.”
“It would be useful because it provides actual tried and true solutions to the problems we face.”
“It could be used to share viewpoints or act as the foundation for actions, reflections, and contemplations.”
“It will give me the experience to learn, grow, and be the woman I am in a man’s prison. And, teach me how to act legally against ignorance by officers and inmates.”
“I’d just like people to know what we’re facing.”

WHO SHOULD WE SHARE A FINAL REPORT WITH?

- 6 said LGBTQ advocacy organizations
- 2 said the whole LGBTQ community
- 5 said anyone and everyone
- 3 said family members
- 3 people said politicians, prison policymakers, state corrections leaders, etc

Sample responses:

“A billboard across the nation (if possible).”
“Black and Pink subscribers and any organization that would be able to help.”
“Any newspaper that will print it.”
“Reports should also be heavily circulated among the GLBTQ community organizations.”

ON THE INSIDE ARTWORK FORM

Black & Pink is facilitating the revival of the art program in a new way, called On the Inside! If you are an artist, here’s how it will work. Create any artwork that you would like (drawings, cards, paintings). Some of the artwork will be accepted for an upcoming exhibit; the artist will be promptly compensated \$50 for all accepted artwork (except \$10 for cards) and postage expenses incurred. Any artwork that isn’t accepted for the exhibit for any reason will be promptly returned to the artist, or other address. If your artwork is accepted for the Exhibition, you assign all right, title and interest in the work to us (in other words you transfer ownership of the art and its copyrights to the Exhibit coordinators) as consideration for participation in the show. The artwork will never be resold, and will likely be donated to an LGBTQ Archive in years to come. **Please do not write your name and number anywhere on the front of the artwork to protect your privacy. We are all excited to see what you create! Please fill out a questions 1 through 6 once, and questions 7 through 10 on separate slip like this for each piece of artwork you submit. Please mail the artwork with the information below on slips to: On the Inside, PO Box 173, 2658 Griffith Park Blvd. , Los Angeles, CA 90039**

- 1)Your preferred name for the exhibit.
2)Your gender pronouns (eg. she / he / xe / they).
3)How do you identify? (Optional: gender, sexuality, race, age).
4)Your legal name, number, and mailing address.
5)If my artwork is not accepted for the exhibit:
__ Send it to my address (please list)
__ Send it to another address (please list)
__ Black & Pink can keep and display it
6)Preferred method of compensation:
__ Donation into commissary account (Please include deposit slips or instructions):
__ Magazines/books (Details)
__ Other:
7)Title of artwork (for display at exhibit).
8)Description of artwork (for display at exhibit).
9)Anything else you’d like the exhibit curator to know about the artwork or about yourself which can be shared / feel free to write on another page, and please note that the exhibit curator is not able to be a penpal):
- 10) I, _____ (Name), give On the Inside permission for my artwork to be exhibited in person, press, catalogues, internet, etc. Sign: _____ Date: _____

BLACK & PINK INCARCERATED FAMILY FEEDBACK!

-----rip slip here-----

How will you let others know that our newspaper is available in Spanish? How do you think we can best reach other Spanish speakers? What do you think other prisoners can do? _____

Black and Pink has a strong connection with prisoners living with HIV/AIDS. We know that young Black and Latino men who have sex with men are at the highest risk of contracting the virus. We know that between 1 in 4 and 1 in 7 HIV+ people will be incarcerated in their lifetimes. Do you think Black and Pink should expand our family to include prisoners living with HIV/AIDS regardless of their sexual or gender identity? Why or why not? _____

Former South African President, political prisoner, and anti-apartheid leader, Nelson Mandela, died December 5th, at the age of 95.

ON THE PASSING OF NELSON MANDELA FROM LEONARD PELTIER

COLEMAN, FLORIDA – Leonard Peltier, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, who has been imprisoned for the past 37 years, issued statement on the passing of former South Africa President Nelson Mandela.

Peltier is serving a life sentence in the U.S. Penitentiary in Coleman, Florida. He was accused of the 1975 murders of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Reservation. He was convicted in 1977.

Many people consider Leonard Peltier a political prisoner of war, as was Mr. Mandela, who was imprisoned for 27 years.

Here is Peltier’s statement released shortly after Mr. Mandela’s death was announced:

Greeting my relatives, friends, and supporters:
It saddens me to hear that a great man like Nelson Mandela has departed from this lifetime. He was a man who was truly inspirational and showed us the possibilities of how a continued struggle by indigenous people could manifest itself in levels of freedom that have been marred by centuries of oppression.

Our Native people suffered the same types of oppression many times. It is not as overt and as easily distinguished as in some places; however, if you are dead because a policeman shot you, or dead because you could not stand the racial and cultural genocide, so you committed suicide– you are just as dead either way.

Nelson Mandela is known for leading the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. America talked about ending apartheid and put sanctions on South Africa. Not being all that adept at the English language, it is my understanding that (apartheid) means to keep someone apart from something; my people have been kept apart purposely from the sacred Black Hills of South Dakota. There was, and still are, measures that keep us apart from our true history, perpetrated by an education system that limits the truth of our being.

RIGHT NOW, HERE IN AMERICA, RIGHT NOW IN CANADA, RIGHT NOW IN SOUTH AMERICA, THERE IS APARTHEID THAT SEEKS TO

SEPARATE US FROM OUR SACRED PLACES, OUR LANDS, AND OUR RESOURCES.

Right now in Canada Native people are struggling to protect their aboriginal lands from fracking which destroys the water tables and disturbs the natural balance of the Earth. Right now with an apartheid mentality, they seek to build pipelines across Native lands that have the potential of great ecological destruction. Right now there is an apartheid that seeks to separate us from the protection of the constitution of the United States which says treaty law is the supreme law of the land; which also says you have a right to an unbiased fair trial; which also says you have a right to a jury of your peers. Right now our young Native people are tried as adults THREE times more than other groups and kept apartheid from their families and kept apartheid from competent legal representation.

I could go on and on, but you can see where I am heading with this. The struggle from apartheid, I am sure, is not over in South Africa, nor is the struggle against apartheid and slavery over in America.

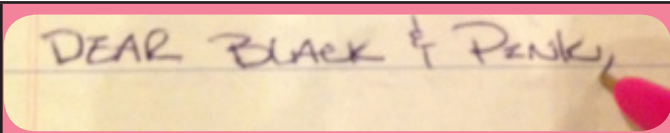
We must all consider Nelson Mandela an inspiration, but I am also inspired by the least of our people who stand up for what is right, like the young man or young woman who peacefully mans a roadblock against developers or fracking companies or some factory that hurts our air. While I am at it, in all this chaos, I also want to remember a brother by the name of Wanbli Tate who tirelessly championed the rights of indigenous people through radio programs, writings, and the internet, to bring attention to the wrongdoers represented in government and corporations.



We have lost a lot of our people in their last years, and again I remember my brother Russell Means who was also tireless in his efforts in trying to bring about an end to this American version of apartheid that faces Native people. *Originally published on Native News Online*

ADDRESSES: PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESSES FOR MAIL!

Please Note: You can send multiple requests/topics in one envelope! For privacy concerns, others can’t sign you up for the newsletter, but you can include a newsletter subscription with any other request. There’s no need to send separate requests in more than one envelope.

	Black & Pink - _____ 614 Columbia Rd Dorchester, MA 02125
If you would like to request:	Please write one or more of these topics in the top line of the address:
Newsletter Subscriptions (Start or Stop)	Black & Pink - Newsletter Subscriptions
Newsletter Submissions (Poems, Art & Stories)	Black & Pink - Newsletter Submissions
“Outside” Free Pen-Pal Request (Please note: Pen-Pal Request Form will be in this newsletter quarterly)	Black & Pink - Pen-Pal
Address Change (Will take a little time to update; at this time, we are mostly unable to send back issues.)	Black & Pink - Address Change
Black & Pink Organization Feedback (especially the slip on Page 7)	Black & Pink - Feedback
Request Erotica	Black & Pink - Erotica
Submit to Erotica Zine	Black & Pink - Gabrielle
Religious Support	Black & Pink - Religion
Volunteering (Send thank you cards to donors, etc.)	Black & Pink - Volunteer
Advocacy Requests (include details about situation and thoughts about how calls or letters might help)	Black & Pink - Advocacy

LEGAL: Consider writing to Lambda Legal for support or referrals with legal issues that you are having. “Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.” Lambda Legal, National Office 120 Wall Street, Suite 1500, New York, NY 10005, 212-809-8585

Assistance with legal research for everyone, and preparing for disciplinary and parole hearings *only* for people in Massachusetts.
Hotline (9am-5pm EST): 617-495-3127 By mail: Prison Legal Assistance Project, 6 Everett Street, Suite 5107, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA 02138

Another resource to turn to, if you can afford the subscription (\$24 yearly, payable with new stamps), is Prison Legal News. This resource was co-started by a former gay prisoner and Men Against Sexism organizer, Ed Mead, though now it is run by Paul Wright. You can reach them by writing to: Prison Legal News, P.O. Box 2420, West Brattleboro, VT 05303

SURVIVORS: Just Detention International provides support for prisoners who are survivors of sexual abuse. Write them at the legal address below for a packet. Each packet includes an introductory letter, a list of local resources, fact sheets, publications about recovery from sexual abuse, and a letter of hope from another survivor. Ms. Chris Daley, Esq., 3325 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 340, Los Angeles, CA 90010